



**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
GAMBLING COMMISSION**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Date:** April 24, 2003

**From:** Office of Deputy Director Robert Berg, 360-486-3452

**Location of Incident:** Pullman, Washington

**Type of Incident:** Search Warrant Service / Professional Gambling Arrests

**Narrative:**

On April 23, 2003 Special Agents of the Washington State Gambling Commission and officers of the Pullman Police Department served a search warrant at N.E. 1405 Merman #G-291, Pullman, Washington. The search warrant was the result of an undercover investigation into a private and unlicensed professional gambling operation. The operation involved a poker game called Texas Hold'em, as well as blackjack games from which the operator of the game collected a percentage of each pot as a fee for operating the game. It is believed that thousands of dollars in illegal bets were made at these games.

An illegal game was in progress when special agents and officers arrived with the search warrant. All people present were arrested and transported to the Pullman Police Department for processing. In addition to the gambling charges, alleged incidents of providing liquor to minors and possession and/or distribution of false identification documents are also under investigation.

Items seized as evidence during the search included, playing cards, chips, cash, computers, and professional type gaming tables. Thirteen people were arrested on charges ranging from Professional Gambling 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree (Class C Felony) to Professional Gambling 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree (Gross Misdemeanor). A complete list of persons arrested was still being developed at the time of this release.

**Persons arrested and held:**

Turpin, David Preston, date of birth 11/18/81  
1405 N.E. Merman #G291, Pullman, Washington  
Booked into the Whitman County Jail on investigation of Professional Gambling 2<sup>nd</sup> degree a Class C Felony

The investigation continues and more charges may be forthcoming.